



Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

Legislative Update

DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005, AS OF 0700**

Command and Control

- U.S. Northern Command Commander is Admiral Keating in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Joint Task Force Katrina East (Forward) is located at Camp Shelby, Mississippi – Lieutenant General Honore is on the USS IWO JIMA pier side in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Joint Task Force Commander for the Louisiana National Guard is Major General Landreneau, at New Orleans.
- Joint Task Force Commander for the Mississippi National Guard is Major General Cross, at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi.

Operational Highlights

- 64,574 (- 3,877) Active Duty (includes Reserves) and National Guard personnel are on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations.
 - 17,176 (- 867) Active Duty.
 - 45,004 (+ 65) National Guard. 2,394 (- 15) outside area ready to assist)
- 17 (-2) US Navy ships are in the area.
- Total aviation support in area:
 - 261 (- 10) helicopters (Active Duty and National Guard).
 - 52 (- 23) airplanes (Active Duty and National Guard).
- DoD has provided extensive search and rescue, evacuation, and medical support:
 - 2,911 (+ 128) Active Duty sorties flown.
 - 9,313 (+ 73) National Guard sorties flown.
- JTF-Katrina is executing strategy that focuses on recovery while continuing to support disaster relief operations.
- FEMA requested DoD perform all aspects of the mortuary affairs mission until another contractor can be found. The Secretary of Defense approved the deployment of 9 teams from the 54th Quartermaster Company Ft. Lee, Virginia.
- 9 mortuary affairs teams from the 54th Quartermaster Company arrived at New Orleans Airport at 12:30 PM on September 13, 2005. Four additional teams from the 54th deployed on September 14 from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and arrived at New Orleans International Airport at 09:55 pm EST. The 13 teams can process 260



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remains per day. An additional 5 teams will arrive at Fort Lee, Virginia prepared to deploy to New Orleans September 15.

- Kenyon International contract signed with state of LA – working recovery operations only.
- One sortie was flown last night by the 910th Air Wing operating from Pensacola, Naval Air Station, Florida. The aircraft sprayed approximately 58,000 acres in the New Orleans proper area. Five total sorties have been flown to date for a total approximately 208,000 acres treated.
 - An additional C-130 arrived in Pensacola for a total of 3 aircraft.
- Seven installations are providing support as transportation staging areas for ice, water, food and medical supplies.
- 21 million Meals Ready to Eat were ordered by FEMA to support Hurricane Katrina response. 1 million of the 21 million were diverted to Virginia and Georgia to support Hurricane Ophelia response.
- 789 beds are available in field hospitals: New Orleans International Airport (25 beds), USS BATAAN (360 beds), USS IWO JIMA (105 beds), USS Tortuga (35 beds), 14th Combat Support Hospital (204 beds), and the USS Shreveport (60 beds).
- The USNS COMFORT remains in Pascagoula, MS.
- Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas is the central collection point for supplies donated by foreign countries – 123 (+ 1) nations and 12 international organizations have offered assistance.
- Force Adjustments: USS H. S. Truman, USS Whidbey Island, Army Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Platoon, Army Aviation Assets, and the 920th Rescue Wing, 4th Expeditionary Medical Support, and II Marine Expeditionary Unit have been approved to redeploy to home station.
 - USS H. S. Truman and USS Whidbey Island have departed operating area for Norfolk, VA.